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HELLENISTIC ARCHITECTURE IN JAFFA: THE 2009 EXCAVATIONS OF THE JAFFA CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT IN THE VISITOR'S CENTRE

AARON A. BURKE, MARTIN PEILSTÖCKER AND GEORGE PIERCE

In 2009 the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project undertook a pilot-project excavation within the soon-to-be-renovated visitor's centre in Qedumim Square. These excavations were intended to clarify stratigraphic questions within area C of Jacob Kaplan's excavations (1961, 1965) and to lay the groundwork for future excavations by the project which was founded in 2007 as a partnership between UCLA and the Israel Antiquities Authority. Along with achieving these goals, the excavations exposed one of the best preserved examples of Hellenistic architecture in the southern Levant and confirmed the employment of a Hippodamian-style town plan from as early as the late Persian period.

Keywords: Jaffa (Joppha), Israel, Roman period, Hellenistic period, Persian period, excavations, preliminary report

I. INTRODUCTION

For nearly two decades the discussion of the archaeology of the Persian and Hellenistic periods in the southern Levant has been dominated by the findings at Tel Dor where excavations have exposed a large and well-planned city constructed in a distinctive architectural style that is traditionally attributed to Phoenician influence (Stern 2000, 149–200). Less well known, however, are the contemporaneous remains of Dor's sister city during the Achaemenid period, Jaffa. It was during this period that both Dor and Jaffa were gifted to Eshmunazar, king of Sidon, by the Achaemenid king (Pritchard 1969, 662). Archaeological evidence, notably architectural remains, from the Persian period but also continuing through the Hellenistic period reveal that both Dor and Jaffa experienced common cultural and technological influences throughout these periods. Owing, however, to a lack of synthesis and publication of findings from excavations in Jaffa by Jacob Kaplan from 1955 to 1974 (Kaplan and Ritter-Kaplan 1993), little awareness exists of the extensive and well-planned remains of the Persian and Hellenistic phases of Jaffa. The nature of the comparison of Dor and Jaffa is, however, even more pronounced in the light of evidence from recent salvage excavations in the lower city of Jaffa by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) from 1993 on (see Peilstöcker 2005, 26–29; Peilstöcker *et al.* 2006; Peilstöcker 2011). With the renewal of excavations on the tell within area C of Kaplan's former excavations, additional insights have been obtained on the nature of Jaffa during the Persian and Hellenistic periods, which underscore the importance of Jaffa as the primary port along the central coast during this period.

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2. THE JAFFA CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT

In 2007, the Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project (JCHP) was established with renewed research excavations on Tel Yafo, under the direction of Aaron A. Burke of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Martin Peilstöcker of the IAA, as one of its four main objectives (Peilstöcker 2007; Burke and Peilstöcker 2011). After initial work in 2007 by the directors within the salvage excavations of the Ganor Compound (Peilstöcker and Burke 2011), the first two seasons of research excavations in 2008 and 2009 were carried out within the Jaffa visitors' centre below Qedumim Square just outside St Peter's Church, on the west side of Tel Yafo (Fig. 1). The 2008 excavations facilitated the development of a clear strategy for the exposure of the Hellenistic and Roman phases within what was known as area C of Jacob Kaplan's excavations during the 1960s (Burke and Peilstöcker 2009), while from June 21 to July 30, 2009, a second and more extensive season of excavations carried out by the JCHP permitted a broader exposure within this area.¹

2.1 *Excavations within the visitors' centre*

The boundaries of each of the new units, designated 1–13, were necessarily determined by the standing walls of Phase III, identified by Kaplan with Level 6 (Fig. 2).² Among the numbered



Fig. 1. Aerial view of Qedumim Square on the western side of Tel Yafo. The built-over depression in square above St. Peter's Church is the visitor's centre and location of the area C excavations. Photo courtesy of Sky View (view to southwest).

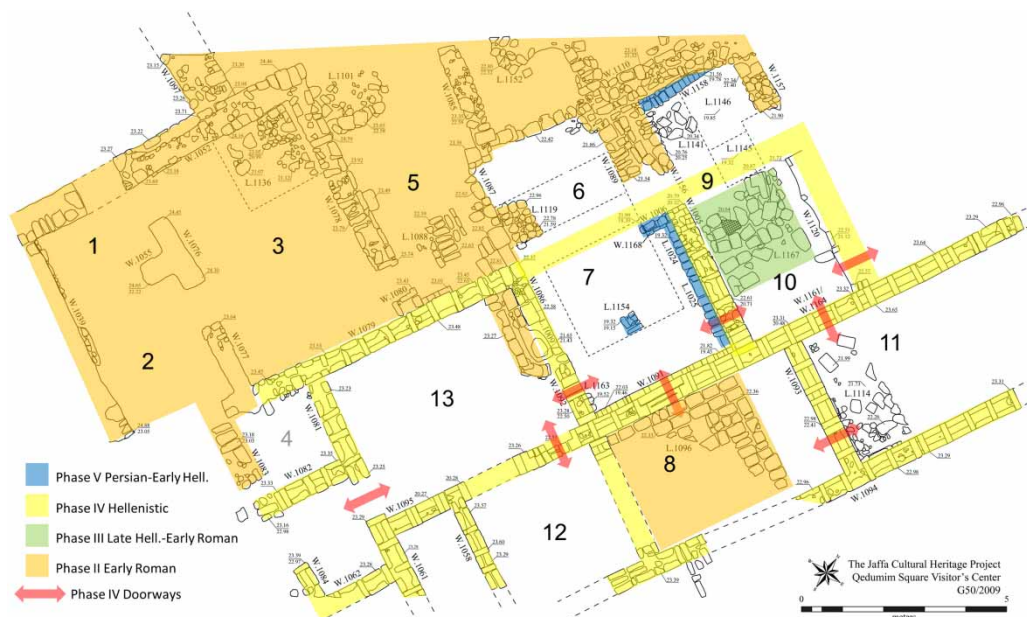


Fig. 2. 2009 GIS Plan of area C integrating Kaplan, Brand and JCHP excavation data (drawn by G. A. Pierce). Numbers indicate excavation units and dashed lines their boundaries.

units 6 excavation squares were excavated in 2009 within the visitors' centre (Fig. 2) to clarify the stratigraphy of earlier excavations in this area by Jacob Kaplan in 1961 and 1965 (Kaplan 1962, 1966) and those in 1992 by Etty Brand on behalf of the IAA (Brand 1994). The principal objective of opening excavations in this area was to answer unresolved questions about the extent and nature of a large ashlar building preserved to two stories in various locations, which underlay the Roman Period remains and has been dated to the Hellenistic period on the basis of stratigraphic position and architectural parallels. Furthermore, a deep sounding was planned within the central excavation unit (unit 7) to permit the identification of Iron and Bronze Age remains and the establishment of their relationship to what was likely the western edge of the settlement at that time. Work was made possible by and coordinated with the renovation plans for the visitors' centre undertaken by the Old Jaffa Development Corporation, exemplifying such planned collaborations as part of the project's aims (Burke and Peilstöcker 2011). As summarized here, at least five main phases of construction and habitation from the Early Roman period and earlier were encountered in relation to the massive ashlar building that underlies the entire eastern half of the excavation area. Of central significance is the unequivocal identification of the monumental ashlar structure as an important public structure in Hellenistic Jaffa, which was probably constructed over another important building dated to the Persian Period. Table 1 summarizes the phases encountered in 2009, their relationship to Kaplan's stratigraphy (Kaplan 1962), and to the new JCHP's stratigraphic sequence for the upper city (Tel Yafo).³

2.2 Phase V (Persian-Early Hellenistic)

The earliest phase encountered by the 2009 excavations consisted of walls which served as foundations for the large ashlar building constructed during Phase IV (discussed below),

TABLE 1: Excavated phases during area C excavations in 2009 and stratigraphic correlations with Kaplan's strata and the new Tel Yafo sequence

2009 Phases	Kaplan Strata	Period	Date (ca.)	Tel Yafo (Upper City) Stratigraphy
—	1	Byz.-Umayyad	500–700	TY-7
—	2	Byz.	400–500	TY-8a
—	3	Late Roman-Byz.	300–400	TY-8b
—	4	Roman	200–300	TY-9a
Phase I, Early Roman	5	Roman	70–200	TY-9b
Phase II, Early Roman	6	Herodian	1–70	TY-9c
Phase III, Late Hellenistic-Early Roman		Hasmonean/Early Roman	167–1 BCE	TY-10a/9d
Phase IV, Early Hellenistic	7	Early Hell.	332–167 BCE	TY-10b
Phase V, Persian	8	Persian	500–332 BCE	TY-11a

which spans most of the excavation area within the visitors' centre. No previous excavations in this area indicated any architectural remains dated to this period, stating only that earlier phases were encountered in a deep sounding made by Kaplan within a 'trial-pit in the cellar floor' (Kaplan 1963, 113). The top of the northern wall (W.1024) to the room forming unit 7 that belongs to this phase was already encountered in 2008. Following those excavations, it was already suggested to be of an earlier date on the basis of the difference in dressing of the stone and poor alignment with the later Hellenistic wall (W.1005) that was constructed on top of it (Burke and Peilstöcker 2009, 224). In 2009, a western wall (W.1168) below W.1006, which would join with W.1024 was also identified (Fig. 3). Since both the upper and lower portions of these walls were robbed towards the south between units 6 and 7, it was possible to examine the cross section of the wall. This illustrated that the earlier wall (1) consisted of larger, more roughly hewn ashlar than the later building; (2) employed plaster as mortar in large gaps between ashlar which would be unnecessary for a foundation; and (3) lacked evidence of a foundation trench (also absent in unit 9). Furthermore, the bottom of this wall is preserved to no fewer than seven courses and its lowest course was never reached during the excavations. The number of courses, the different quality of the masonry, the use of plaster, and lack of a foundation trench all suggest that its use as a foundation for the western wall (W.1006) of the Hellenistic ashlar building was a secondary function after the wall had belonged to an earlier structure. Therefore, the western and northern walls within excavation unit 7 provide the first substantive evidence for an architectural phase dated to the Persian Period on the western side of Tel Yafo.

A second area on the west side of the excavations also reached the Persian phase. Work in unit 9, to the north of unit 7, revealed a wall constructed solely of header stones (W.1158; Fig. 4), which served as the foundation for a later wall (W.1110). While the fill (L.1146) against the eastern face of W.1158 was excavated, by the end of our excavations it was apparent that this fill consisted of a backfilling operation carried out by Kaplan after completion of his

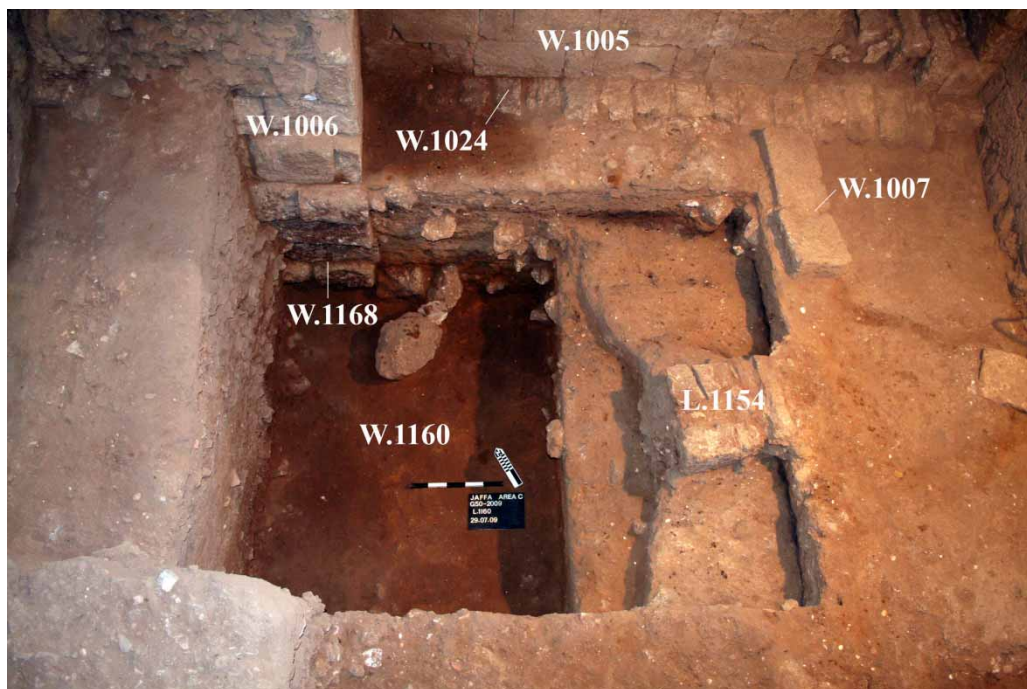


Fig. 3. Deep sounding in unit 7 exposing the earliest phase in Area C encountered during the 2009 excavations. Photo 2009-P281 (view to north-northeast).

excavations in Square DD101, which was confirmed by the discovery of a stone marked in red chalk 'DD101' that was used by Kaplan throughout photography in his excavations as evidenced in early field photographs. This meant that only limited stratigraphic relationships could be established between the early walls associated with this phase (W.1024, W.1168, W.1158). Nevertheless, W.1158 is tentatively identified as Persian in date, based both on the comparable style of ashlar construction and elevation with respect to the early walls discussed above, which lay below the large Hellenistic structure. It is doubtful that Kaplan exposed the loci directly below the stones of the wall and therefore some of the Persian pottery that was collected from here is likely to have been *in situ*. However, the date of the all-headers wall (W.1158) is more securely established by its relationship to the walls of unit 7, discussed above.

The picture that emerges of the Persian period Phase V below the Hellenistic ashlar building of Phase IV is therefore of a nascent Hippodamian city plan upon which the Hellenistic building was constructed. While, according to Stern (2000, 157–64), the Hippodamian plan is well known from Persian period sites such as Dor from as early as the sixth century, the evidence from the area C excavations in Jaffa dates no earlier than the end of the Persian period. Given, however, the association of Persian town plans of Jaffa and Dor, two cities within the Phoenician sphere it is quite possible that such planning can be traced originally to the Levant. As during the Hellenistic period, along the western side of the main building ran a street on a north-northeast to south-southwest orientation (see Fig. 2), which is likely to have been a main corridor of traffic within Jaffa during this period. Unfortunately, no surfaces from this street survive. W.1158 on the west side of the street appears to constitute the southeastern corner

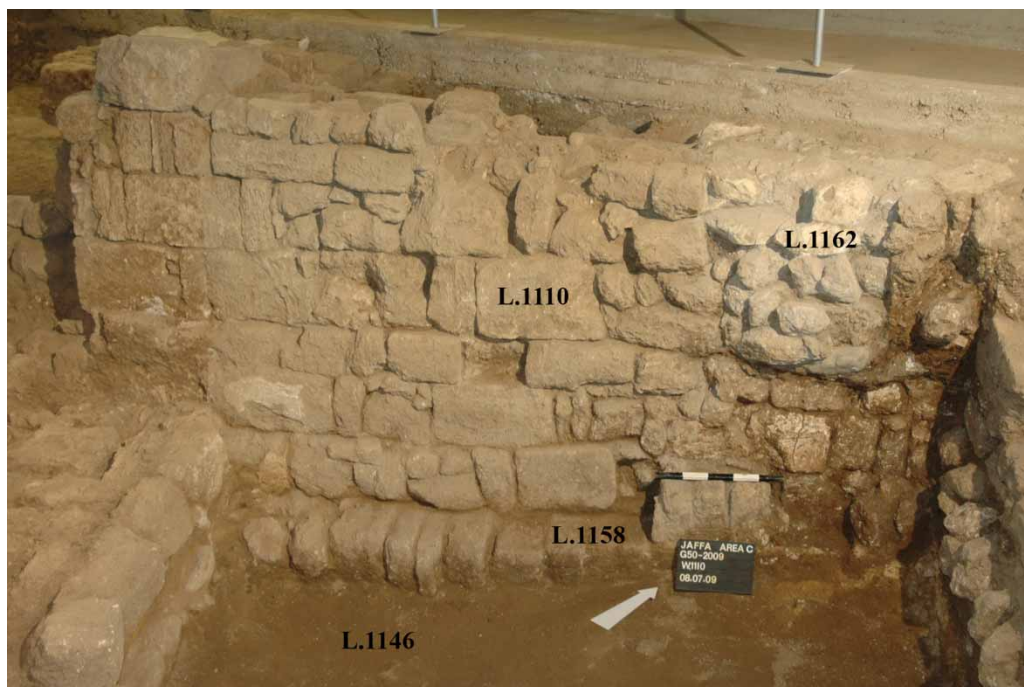


Fig. 4. Later Roman period wall (W.1110) built atop the all-headers W.1158. Photo 2009-P111 (view to northwest).

of a massive building, while the lowest courses of ashlar masonry identified in unit 7 belong to the precursor to the ashlar building of Phase IV. While, in and of itself, this constitutes a limited amount of Persian period architecture, when taken in combination with excavated remains from Area Y to the north and the possible remains of the city wall, the so-called ‘Sidonian Wall’, in area A (Kaplan and Ritter-Kaplan 1993, 659), the layout of a well-planned Persian port city begins to emerge.

2.3 Phase IV (Hellenistic)

Within the probe in unit 7, which reached the greatest depth in the excavations (Fig. 3), a series of layers were identified as part of a filling operation, probably undertaken to prepare for the construction of the large ashlar building atop the repurposed walls of the Phase V. The earliest of these (L.1160) was composed predominantly of sand and was largely devoid of pottery, but included ceramics ranging from the Iron II to the Hellenistic period. Although this was the deepest that our excavations were able to penetrate, this sounding reveals the likelihood that occupational layers of the Persian period and Iron Age lay below the Hellenistic phase in area C. Above L.1160, another layer of fill (L.1155) of similar composition was deposited. A perforated sheet of lead (JCHP 137), probably a constructional support for wooden beams, was recovered from this fill. The identification of these layers as part of a filling operation with some short interludes is supported by evidence of a ‘clean’ charcoal debris layer 5-cm thick (L.1153) consisting of substantial wood fragments but entirely free of any material culture, ceramics, etc. Analysis of this wood revealed the presence of evergreen oak (*Quercus*

calliprinos), terebinth (*Pistacia palaestina*), and olive (*Olea europaea*), and suggests that it was cut in the spring (Lorentzen 2012, personal communication). A fill composed of brown soil, charcoal, plaster, and shell inclusions (L.1149), likely served as the sub-floor matrix of the plaster floor of the first storey of the Hellenistic structure (L.1148), which was first identified in 2008 (L.1025).

The dominant feature of this phase is, however, the ashlar masonry building of header-stretcher construction, the walls of which are visible in almost every excavation unit on the eastern side of the visitors' centre (Fig. 5): units 4 (W. 1058, 1061–1062, 1081–1084, 1095), 5 (W.1079), 6 and 7 (W.1005–1006, 1092), 10 (W.1120, 1161/1164/1091), and 11 (W.1093, 1094). Until our excavations this phase of construction was regarded as the 'cellar' thought to have been 'dug deep into the older strata' during the second century CE (Kaplan 1963, 111). Where they can be identified after the excavations as well as from exploration within the unexcavated spaces to the east the ashlar walls bound a number of rooms on the first storey of the building. On the west these include from north to south rooms 10, 7, and 13, and to the east of these rooms 11, 8, and 12 (see Fig. 2). It is particularly noteworthy with regard to the building's potential function that each room is connected to adjacent rooms by a doorway, leaving no room to be qualified as private as might be suggested were access more restricted. The northern doorway (to an unexcavated space to the north) and the eastern doorway (see Fig. 6) in Room 10 collapsed in a later period, while the southern doorway of Room 10, which remained intact, connected to Room 7 (formerly identified as the 'catacomb' and 'cellar'). Room 7 also gave access to Room 8 to the east via a well-preserved doorway (Fig. 5) and to Room 13 via its southern doorway, which was later blocked as seen in an unpublished photo from Kaplan's excavations (Fig. 7). It is also possible to identify the doorways within the unexcavated first storey rooms to the east in 8, 12, and 13.

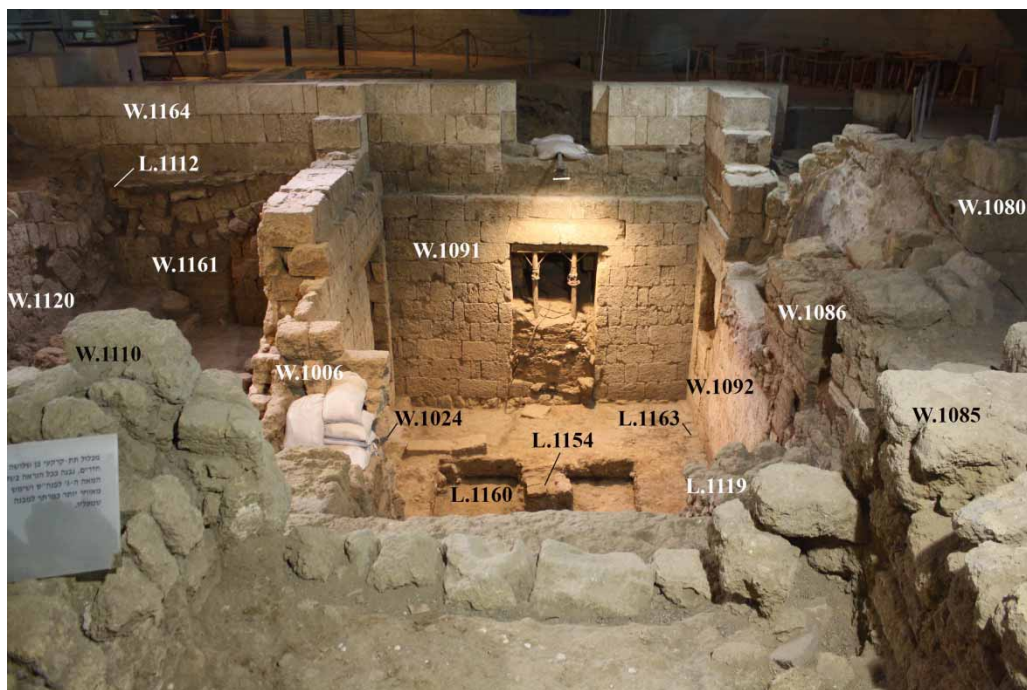


Fig. 5. Rooms of the western side of the Hellenistic building of Phase IV looking across Unit 6 and down to probe in Unit 7. Photo 2009-P406 (view to south-east).

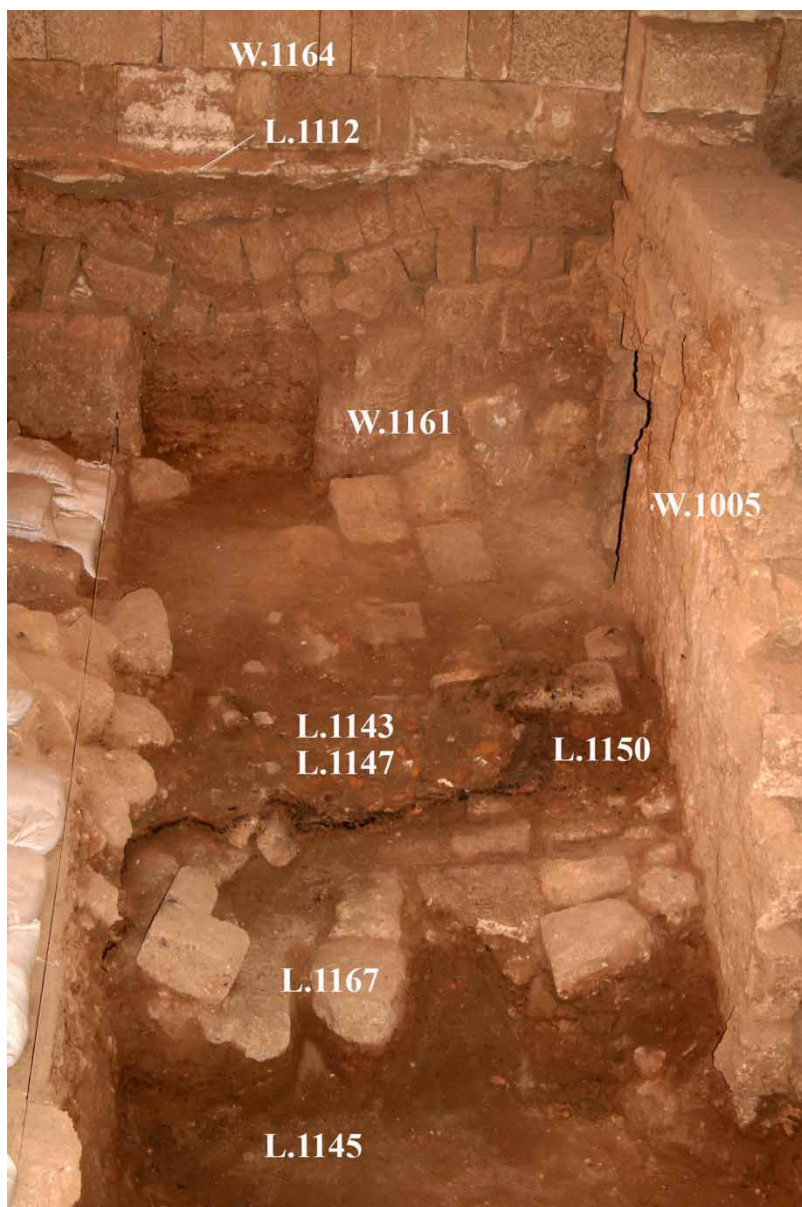


Fig. 6. Squatter habitation levels in Unit 10 showing phases of ashlar building with collapsed doorway and later floor. Note collapsing doorway of Phase IV in background. Photo 2009-P213 (view to southeast).

Within these it is possible to see above the backfill across the spaces to where doorways are located, as well as to see indications of the locations of the doorways from above (see Fig. 2 for doorway identifications). Owing to the reuse and reconstruction of the second storey as the first storey of the Phase III building, the location of the second storey doorways is less



Fig. 7. Photo from 1961 excavations by Jacob Kaplan showing in situ stones blocking southern door of unit 7. Kaplan Archive photo 1005 (view to south).

certain. However, on the basis of architectural remains as observed for the second storey eastern doorway in unit 7 (see Fig. 5), it seems that the same degree of room access existed on the second storey as on the first.

In style and appearance the ashlar of the Phase IV building are far more regularly cut than those used in the structures of the Persian period (Phase V). Although walls of similar construction were also identified in the unit 3 probe below W.1052 and W.1078, these are probably to be identified with a building across a street or alley to the west of the large ashlar structure, which continued the tradition of the Persian period when a structure had been built there as well. In units 6 and 7, W.1005 and W.1092 rest on the reused 'headers-out' walls of the preceding phase (W.1024 and L.1163, respectively). Examination of the construction techniques of the ashlar building revealed that the construction of W.1092 and W.1091 in the southern corner of unit 7 was integrated, while the east end of W.1005 only abuts W.1091 and was obviously constructed only when W.1006 and likely all of the western wall of the structure that cut across units 6–7 and 9–10 were constructed. Based on the existence of a ledge on upper parts of the northern and southern walls of unit 7 (see Figs. 5 and 7), the second storey floor during this period appears to have been constructed of wooden planks. Since Jaffa was a port scrap wood and timber would have been more greatly available, and the proximity of the site

would have made shipments of wood from the north much easier. Jaffa's role in timber imports from Lebanon is well known in the biblical narratives (e.g. 2 Chron 2:16), but likewise confirmed by recent discoveries of cedar from Lebanon in the Late Bronze Age Egyptian fortress (Lorentzen 2012, personal communication).

While it was not possible to corroborate Kaplan's third-century dating for this building (Kaplan 1962, 149), the fills excavated, as discussed above, do suggest a Hellenistic date for its construction. It may be therefore that it is to this structure that the monumental Greek inscription of Ptolemy Philopator IV belongs (IAA 1993–2061 [MHA 2715]; Lifshitz 1962, 82–84; Woodhead 1964, no. 357), which was found by Jacob Kaplan in the fill of the lower level of the building. Unfortunately, nothing other than names with honorific titles were preserved on the marble fragment (Fig. 8) and the bottom half has not been recovered. Since no intact floors were identified a precise date for the final occupation of the building remains problematic. This, therefore, is one of the most important questions to be addressed concerning this structure, and the potential to address this problem may lie in the rooms to the east of those excavated, which appear to have suffered less damage than the westernmost rooms.

2.4 Phase III (Late Hellenistic-Early Roman)

Although the precise context for the abandonment of the ashlar building of the Hellenistic period cannot be determined, it appears that the structure was decommissioned when the stone lintels that supported the doorways of the first storey began to collapse (Fig. 6). The fracture of the northern and eastern door lintels leading from unit 7, the northern of which was replaced with wooden planks shortly after Kaplan's excavations in the 1960s, are another indication of the stress to which these large slabs had been subjected. Despite the condition of the building, after the partial backfilling of the rooms to support the walls, squatters inhabited parts



Fig. 8. Greek dedicatory inscription of Ptolemy IV Philopator (MHA 2715) found by Jacob Kaplan. Rephotographed by The Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project.

of the structure. At least within unit 10, the mixed plaster-dirt floor (L.1150) was supported by flat-lying stones and even a piece of mosaic (L.1167). Above this were found various layers of debris and pottery (L.1143, L.1147), which included at least one coin (JCHP 128) tentatively dated to the Hasmonean period and a Hellenistic lamp (JCHP 160; Fig. 9). During this period, doorways within unit 10 were at best only two-thirds of their intended height and therefore are likely not to have functioned to connect these spaces.

The phase detected in unit 10, which is probably to be characterized as a period of squatter occupation, was rather short-lived and is not indicative of the use of the entire building. Instead, other parts appear to have been abandoned. The room bounded by W.1006 on the west, within unit 6–7 was used as a dumping ground as indicated by a series of fills excavated in unit 6 (L.1142, L.1132, L.1127, L.1126), which were observed (in a probe in 2008) to slope up on the west towards W.1006 (L.1012, L.1008, L.1004) and terminate on the line formed by it and its robber trench (L.1145). Before these fills were deposited in unit 7 a wall (W.1007; Fig. 3) was laid across the room from north to south, thus demarcating the eastern boundary of the fills. This wall may have maintained a north-south corridor of access between the rooms in units 10, 12, and 13. It remains unclear, therefore, if a contemporaneous fill occupied the space excavated by Kaplan to the east of W.1007, which we designated unit 7.

Additional evidence of what also appears to be part of a phase of late Hellenistic squatter occupation was encountered in unit 3 where a probe was undertaken beneath the floor of a room excavated by Kaplan and identified by him as destroyed during the First Revolt in the first century CE. This probe in unit 3 on the south side of the excavation area was excavated in the northwest corner formed by the western (W.1052) and northern (W.1078) walls of the early Roman building dated to the first century CE (Kaplan 1962, 149). The probe had been undertaken to determine whether these walls, like others in the excavation area, had been constructed upon the remains of earlier walls. The earliest level reached in this probe was a fill with some stones (L.1137), which contained Persian period jars and Attic black-glazed ware. Into this fill later features were built including a probable fieldstone wall (W.1136)



Fig. 9. Hellenistic lamp (JCHP 160) found in L.1143.

and a *kurkar*, sand, and shell installation (L.1135). Set into this installation was the upper half of a Rhodian amphora bearing a stamped handle reading ΝΙΚΑΣΙΜΑΧΟΣ ΔΑΜΟΣΘΕΝΗ (Nikasimachos Damosthenes; JCHP 204). The pottery, including an intact inverted rim bowl (JCHP 14) and a stamped amphora handle (JCHP 205), dates to the Hellenistic period.

2.5 Phase II (Early Roman)

This phase consists of the preparation and reuse of walls throughout the area for incorporation into a phase of an Early Roman domestic complex likely dating to the late first century BCE and continuing in use through the First Revolt. This architecture can be connected with the findings concerning the Jewish house identified by Kaplan in 1965 (Kaplan 1966, 282). One of the most striking aspects of this house is the preservation of a collection of ceramics and stone vessels of the Judean type, which suggest the identification of the household as Jewish (Tsuf 2011).⁴ In unit 10, stones and soil (L.1139, L.1134, L.1128) were deposited to level the area before construction during the Early Roman period, a date which is based on recovered ceramics. However, before the construction atop these fills was undertaken, a trench (L.1145, L.1159) was cut to rob the extension of W.1006, the western wall of the ashlar building, where only a few ashlars remain at its juncture with W.1005 (Fig. 10). The trench extended from the north-eastern edge of the excavations through units 9 and 6 to W.1086 and W.1092. As the ashlar blocks were removed, the rubble core simply fell into the trench and served as a partial backfill, and additional Early Roman pottery from the trench provides a *terminus post quem* for the wall's robbing and the filling of the trench. Why the wall was robbed only after

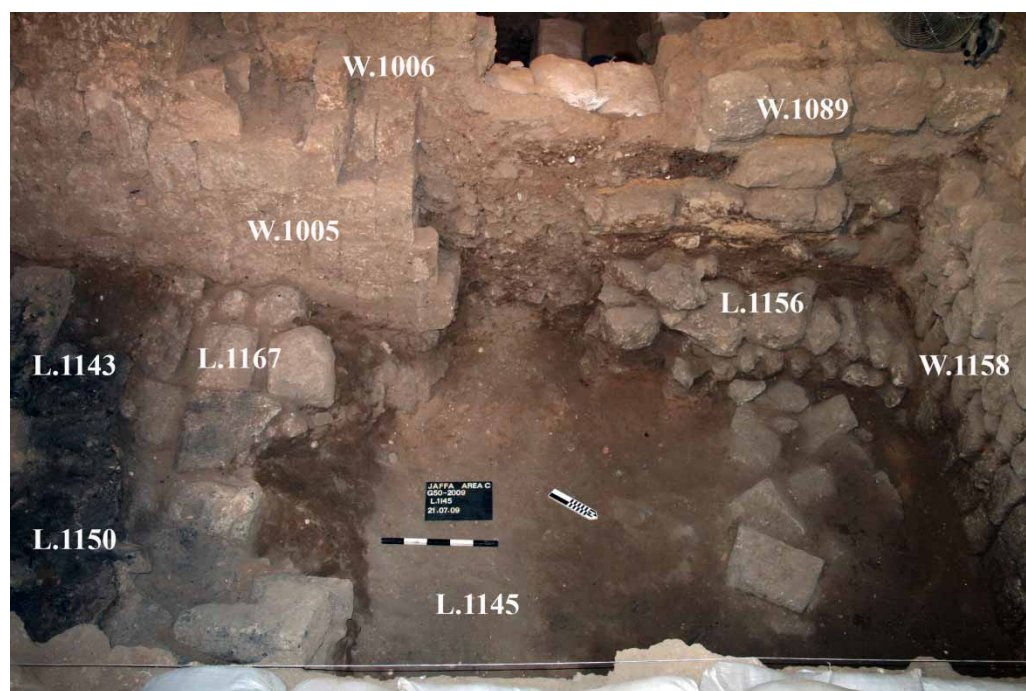


Fig. 10. Robber trench (L.1145) dividing Units 9-10, and squatter occupation on left in Unit 10. Photo 2009-P237 (view to south).

the effort to fill the room is unclear, but this suggests that some time separated these two events. The ashlar robbed from the wall were probably employed nearby in the Early Roman structures that were built across the area with ashlar blocks of the size and type associated with the Phase IV building.

After the robber trench was backfilled a layer of soil (L.1116) was deposited in unit 10 over the robber trench providing a surface from which of the Phase II building was constructed. Ceramics from this layer, which was probably an exterior space, indicate an Early Roman date. It is possible that plaster (L.1112) protruding from below the face of W.1164 in unit 10 reveals the presence of a plaster floor in this area that was located above various fills deposited on top of W.1161 (Fig. 6). Although none of this floor was found intact at the time of our excavations, this plaster layer can be traced through to the opposite side of W.1091. It indicates that the ashlar masonry above the plaster was added later and was not a part of the original construction of the second storey of the Phase IV building and is therefore likely an example of the reuse of the ashlar masonry in the Early Roman period, which is attested across the excavation area. In unit 3, for example, the reuse of ashlar blocks is evident in W.1052 and W.1078. The eastern face of W.1052 was coated with a backing for plaster, as was the southern face of W.1078, and traces of plaster were preserved on both surfaces.

Elsewhere, the decommissioned rooms of the first storey of the Hellenistic building of Phase IV were sealed by stone paving supported by a vault as seen in unit 8 (see Fig. 2). This technology was not employed in the region prior to the Roman period and provides therefore a *terminus post quem* for its construction. Kaplan had encountered these vaulted stone floors (Fig. 11) and likewise attributed them to the Early Roman period, although he suggested that this flooring also functioned as a ceiling over the former 'cellar' (Kaplan 1963, 113). Similar vaulting was employed to seal the pre-Roman phase below unit 5, and probably units 12 and 13. Although units 12 and 13 have been covered by modern flooring since the 1990s, the doorway leading from unit 7 into unit 13 permits a view into this now subterranean space and confirms that a similar vaulted construction was employed there. That these vaults were not intended as ceilings for the repurposing of the lower level is evident in the space below unit 8 where the vault's footings protrude into the doorway. Furthermore, the vaults appear to have sealed late Hellenistic and Early Roman fills within these spaces, as evident from the excavations in unit 7 discussed above. The employment of vaulting in these spaces, which added considerably to the pressure against the ashlar-constructed walls, was probably only possible due to these fills, which buttressed the lower walls that served therefore only as foundations during this phase. Whether or not such a vault ever sealed unit 7 is unclear, and the absence of any remains of such a structure contributed to Kaplan's misidentification of this space as a catacomb and cellar.

On the western side of the excavation area construction of this phase was characterized by more rudimentary fieldstone walls as seen in the north-western part of the excavation area. W.1117, which effectively replaced the robbed out wall line in unit 10 was constructed of large fieldstones with lower courses of smaller fieldstones set directly on fill (L.1113). It lay in the same alignment as W.1007 in unit 7, which was of similar construction. In unit 9, W.1110 (excavated by E. Brand), which runs in a northeast-southwest orientation and probably corresponds with W.3 of Early Roman date, was built on the all-headers wall W.1158 as a foundation. W.1089 directly abutted W.1110 on its east face and formed the northern enclosure to unit 6, while W.1157 abuts the east face of W.1110 and continued the alignment of the wall below (W.1120). Since all three of these walls are in an area previously excavated by Kaplan, construction dates for the unit 9 walls depends on Kaplan's preliminary findings and correlations with Brand's excavations. Excavations on the western side of W.1052 revealed that W.1097 abutted W.1052, which was composed of roughly dressed fieldstones. To the north of W.1097, a conflagration layer (L.1007) was identified, which was composed of burned debris



Fig. 11. Early Roman vault-supported floor in northwest corner of unit 8 as exposed in 1965 by Jacob Kaplan. Walls 1093 and 1091 are seen in lower left and along right side of photo, respectively. Kaplan Archive photo (view to south).

and ceramics over a plastered surface (L.1065). Although the latest pottery recovered was Hellenistic in date, the floor is laid in relation to W.1097, which directly abuts the upper courses of W.1052, dated by Brand to the Early Roman period (Brand 1994, 82, Fig. 75).

2.6 Phase I: later phases (*Late Roman to Modern*)

Traces of various later phases were encountered during the course of the clearance and clean-up of wall remains at the southern end of area C. None of these, however, permit a coherent phase plan or narrative within the renewed excavations, although each feature was systematically excavated and recorded and may permit integration with the published excavations of Kaplan in area C in the future. One of the major fills associated with the modern period was that of Kaplan's excavation backfill from 1965 in unit 9. Among one of the most interesting finds of the season originated here (L.1129), although no reference to it exists among Kaplan's records. Here was found an Attic black-glazed bowl base inscribed with the characters ΔΙΙ (Fig. 12), which is a possible variant of the name Zeus, likely the name of the vessel's owner in this context. Unfortunately, like the Ptolemy IV inscription, it is of Hellenistic date and yet lacks a productive context.



Fig. 12. Inscribed Attic black-glazed bowl base (JCHP 194). Inscription is located in lower right quadrant of base.

3. CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the renovations to the visitor's centre that were completed in 2011 further archaeological exploration of area C, which was undertaken between 1961 and 2009 by three separate institutions, will be impossible for the foreseeable future. In this light the conclusions reached in the course of the 2009 excavations by the JCHP are critical to clarifying a number of issues related to earlier exploration. Foremost among these is the recognition of a phase of architecture dated to the Persian period (Phase V), which appears to have influenced the later layout of the Hellenistic city on the western side of the site. Additionally, the recognition that the lower courses of ashlar masonry constitute, in fact, the first storey of a public building dated to the Hellenistic period (Phase IV) and do not belong to a cellar or catacomb complex of the late Roman period as once suggested by Jacob Kaplan is very significant. To our knowledge this structure represents one of the most completely preserved public buildings of the Hellenistic period in Cisjordan. The access provided to each room suggests its identity as a public building, which might also be supported by the discovery of the dedicatory inscription of Ptolemy IV, albeit in a later fill within the structure. Only exploration of the unexcavated rooms to the east holds can further clarify the building's function and provide, consequently, a clearer picture of the Hellenistic city of Jaffa.

NOTES

¹ Logistics for the excavations were coordinated with the Old Jaffa Development Corporation, which incorporated the excavated remains within its renovation of the visitors' centre following these

excavations; the renovations were completed in spring 2011. Excavations were supervised by graduate students from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA: G. A. Pierce (area supervisor) and unit supervisors K. Keimer, B. Kaufman, K. Lords, H. Pietricola, and H. Dodgen. Excavation work was made possible by archaeological field school participants from the United States, Canada, Denmark and Israel, through the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology and Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, and several hired workers provided by the Old Jaffa Development Corporation. O. Tsuf served as the project's Classical ceramicist, while Benjamin Marcus and Leslie Friedman organized conservation, which made possible these excavations. The project would also like to thank James F. Strange of the University of South Florida for his observations concerning excavated ceramics during his time on site. Logistical support and equipment were provided by the Israel

Antiquities Authority as part of the project's cooperation.

² In relation to Kaplan's excavation grid, the excavation units spanned his original squares CC100–101 and DD100–103.

³ The Tel Yafo (TY) upper city stratigraphy is based on phases represented in Kaplan's excavations (1955–1974) on the mound itself with modifications based on work subsequent to 1974 (i.e. Kaplan and Ritter-Kaplan 1993). In the process of preparing the Kaplan excavations for publication a distinction has been made by the current expedition between the upper (TY) and lower town (LY), owing to the fact that not all phases in the upper town appear in the lower town. TY strata comprise the stratigraphy attested on the mound as part of a single sequence. Letter designations will be added to the TY sequence to note additional subphases as these are assigned.

⁴ The area C excavations of Jacob Kaplan are being prepared for publication by Orit Tsuf.

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